

that each patient is notified of results and that any necessary follow up will occur," and that it "agrees with consumer groups that written notification of mammographic results represents the 'best practices' in ensuring that each and every woman is clearly and effectively notified of the results of her mammogram . . ."

I am here today on behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition to ask the Senate to adopt the re-authorized version of MQSA that has already been passed by the House. While the Senate re-authorized the MQSA (of 1992) last year, that legislation did not include a direct notification requirement. H.R. 4382 would require that written notification be provided to every patient in terms easily understood by the general public.

Our experience as activists and consumers is that without a requirement that facilities provide direct written notification to patients—it won't happen.

On behalf of NBCC, I am pleased to join Chairman Bliley, Chairman Bilirakis, and sponsors of H.R. 4382 in asking that the Senate pass the House passed MQSA reauthorization into law this year.

September 21, 1998.

Hon. THOMAS J. BILEY, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
U.S. House of Representatives.

Hon. MICHAEL BILIRAKUS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.

DEAR GENTLEMEN: The National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO) is extremely grateful for your continued support of the National Mammography Quality Standards Act and efforts to assure its reauthorization as soon as possible. Additionally, we were pleased by the outcome of the Committee's August 5th deliberations and report including certain amendments, and have encouraged Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, and Mikulski to promote the adoption of the House language into the Senate bill. In our opinion, the House Commerce Committee's amendments offer strong enhancements to the original language of the Act and will benefit women throughout the country by further improving the quality of their mammography screening.

First, an increasing number of women are now receiving the results of their mammograms directly from their mammography provider, but it is not mandatory for the providers to do so in most cases. In the unanimous opinion of the Quality Determinants of Mammography Guideline Panel convened by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research "A report should be sent to the health care provider and results passed on to the woman." NABCO strongly supports every woman's right to receive the results of her screening mammogram directly, in a timely manner, and in language that is meaningful to her.

Second, although the implementation of the Act is not yet fully realized, lessons learned from the on-site inspection process highlight the opportunity to improve on the efficiencies of resources dedicated to assuring the high standards of mammography quality the Congress intended. To that end, we support the concept of demonstration projects which will provide further analysis of the relationship between duration and frequency of those on-site inspections.

Finally, the provision strengthening the independent and objective role of reviewing mammographers lends further credence to the specific training they receive, which women want, deserve and expect from facilities certified by the Federal Government.

Many thanks for your support of the breast cancer cause. Please do not hesitate to con-

tact us if we may be of assistance in any breast cancer issues that come before you.

Sincerely,

KIMBERLY CALDER,
MPS, Associate Executive Director.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1998.

Hon. TOM BILEY,
Chairman, House Commerce Committee,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BILEY: We want to thank you and the other cosponsors of the Mammography Quality Standards Act for legislation that offers millions of Americans a greater measure of hope as we confront the battle against breast cancer. The House acted wisely when it passed your bill.

It is our sincere hope the Senate will act quickly to pass the House version. While the Senate bill also takes steps to advance mammography standards, it does not include the direct notification provisions in the House version. Personal notification of test results in terms women can understand can help save lives and should be part of final legislation. We urge Congress to pass a final bill this session.

Thank you for your concern and efforts on this important issue of public health.

Sincerely,

SUSAN N. NATHANSON, PH.D.,
Executive Director,
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization.

STATEMENT BY JENNIE R. COOK, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY BOARD CHAIR, ON PENDING ACTION ON THE MAMMOGRAPHY QUALITY STANDARDS ACT

"Good afternoon. I'm Jennie Cook, Chairman of the National Board for the American Cancer Society. Let me first begin by saying that it is an honor to be here today with so many distinguished members of Congress. On behalf of the American Cancer Society, I want to thank the U.S. Congress for all efforts to promote the highest standards in quality mammography. I also want to thank Chairman Bliley and Representative Bilirakis and many other key members of the committee for making this event possible. Without their leadership, we wouldn't be here today.

"One of the first lines of defense in the fight against breast cancer has been to encourage screening, earlier diagnosis and prompt appropriate treatment. The American Cancer Society strongly believes that every woman in this country has a right to a mammogram of the highest standards of quality, and we are committed to seeing that all women have access to high quality mammography, as well as other medical interventions that have been convincingly shown to reduce morbidity and mortality from breast cancer.

"The five-year survival rate for a woman with localized breast cancer has risen to about 97 percent today, largely through the advent of early detection of the disease. The potential for early detection to be effective is an empty promise if the quality of mammography is low. Since early detection is so important, all women should feel confident that mammography facilities in their communities achieve high standards. Just last week, the U.S. House of Representatives helped make this goal achievable through the continuation of Mammography Quality Standards Act.

"The Mammography Quality Standards Act, or MQSA, represents an important milestone in the fight against breast cancer. Women can now continue to have confidence in the quality of their mammograms because mammography facilities are being certified

in accordance with federal standards. The reauthorization process made it possible to enhance MQSA—to make it even better than it was the first time around. We are especially pleased that the U.S. House of Representatives included a provision to directly notify women of their mammogram results in easy-to-understand language—which is a top priority of the American Cancer Society.

"Consumer and public health advocates have consistently stressed that communicating mammography results directly to women is a vital component of medical care and a necessary quality standard. Women are entitled to timely, accurate and easily understood information about the results of their mammograms. Studies have shown that women believe their mammography results are normal if they are not contacted after their examination. If in fact the information about a suspicious mammogram has fallen through the cracks, appropriate follow-up care is often unnecessarily postponed. A delay in diagnosis due to poor communication can have adverse consequences for women and their doctors. For women, it can mean fewer treatment options and reduced chances at survival. For physicians, communication failures represent system failures and, consequently, failures to meet the needs of their patients. Thus, direct notification establishes that the interpreting physician, the referring physician and the woman all play a role in ensuring that appropriate follow-up takes place.

"Once again, on behalf of the American Cancer Society, I want to thank the U.S. Congress for taking up this important legislation, and I urge the U.S. Senate to pass HR 4382 in time for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October."

FISH AND WILDLIFE REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. It's essentially identical to one (H.R. 2291) I introduced last year to improve the ability of the Fish and Wildlife Service to carry out its responsibilities in Colorado and around the country. I'm glad my colleague Senator ALLARD chose to carry the bill in the Senate.

The Service is responsible for storage and disposal of a great variety of fish and wildlife and wildlife-related items that come into federal ownership under a variety of laws.

Hundreds of thousands of these items are collected at two facilities in Commerce City, Colorado. Most are in the National Wildlife Property Repository, while dead eagles and eagle parts (including feathers) go to the National Eagle Repository.

From the general repository, the Service makes many items available to other agencies and to museums, zoos, schools and colleges for scientific, education, and official purposes. From the Eagle Repository, eagles and eagle parts are made available to Native Americans for religious purposes.

These distributions meet a real need. In 1996, the eagle repository filled more than 1,300 requests, while between July, 1995 and February, 1997 more than 5,700 items were shipped from the general repository to organizations around the nation.

But many more items come into the general repository than are needed for such distribution. Under applicable law, the Service has to retain some of these items that aren't distributed. But others can be sold—and that's where this bill comes in.

Under current law, proceeds from sales of these unneeded items can be used for rewards and for some storage costs, but can't be used to defray the costs of the sales themselves. This bill would change this so that the Service could use the money from the sales to pay for the appraisals, auction expenses, and other costs of those sales, as well as for processing and shipping of items and for any steps needed to clear title to them.

It's estimated that in the first year after enactment, the bill will generate about a million dollars in additional funding for the Service. That will help make these programs more self-supporting, cutting red tape and making it easier for the Service to carry out these important activities.

The bill would not authorize sales of any items that can't be sold now, and it would not change any of the other rules regarding protection or management of fish or wildlife.

I think it's good sense as well as good government. I'm glad that the Senate has now passed this companion measure, and I urge the House to concur and clear the bill for signing into law.

Finally, let me remind my friend from California that this bill really originated on this side of the aisle. Equitable treatment of minority legislation on the suspension calendar is an objective I share. However, this bill is bipartisanship—and it should pass.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD LABOR RELIEF ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the International Child Labor Relief Act today.

This bill authorizes the payment of \$30 million for FY 1999, 2000 and 2001 for the U.S. Labor Department, to be used as the U.S. contribution to the International Labor Organization for the activities of the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor.

According to UNICEF statistics, between 200,000 and 250,000 child laborers exist worldwide, 95% of whom are in underdeveloped countries. The total includes children working on family farms and other argibusinesses, in factories and perhaps most tragically in the sex industries.

Countries including India, Nepal, Pakistan, parts of Central American and Burma many young girls and young women are forced into prostitution. In Sudan and Mauritania, thousands of ethnic minority children have been kidnapped and sold into slavery. We are all aware of the problems worldwide of child labor and child abuse.

Last year, I supported Representative LANTOS' legislation, H.R. 1870, The Young American Worker's Bill of Rights, in order to set minimum standards for protecting children in the workplace. I urge my colleagues to sup-

port this legislation. We must do whatever we can to keep children safe.

TRIBUTE TO ALLSTATE HISPANIC MARKETING TEAM

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to the Allstate Hispanic Marketing Team and Advertising and Brand Development Group for their vision and commitment to better serve the needs of Latino community.

President Kennedy once said, "For those to whom much is given, much is required." This recognition is to honor the individuals who have exemplified such leadership, volunteerism, and dedication. Committed to their industry leadership stance, these Allstate leaders have activity engaged in building relationships with organizations in meaningful ways to develop solutions that make a positive difference for individuals and communities.

Pioneering programs that range from the development of the "En Buenas Manos" (Good Hands) Award which commemorates individuals who volunteer their time and energy to improve the quality of life in the Latino community, to the sponsorship of national events such as the National Council of La Raza Conference (NCLR), and the Olmos Latino Book and Family Festival is what sets Allstate apart.

The list of cultural and civic Hispanic events in which Allstate and its vast network of agents participate as individuals and as a company is long, and includes festivals, parades, conferences, and other national and local events of special interest.

In addition to its commitment to providing its customers with the highest levels of service, Allstate, through its Hispanic Marketing Team and Advertising and Brand Development Group, has forged relationships and spearheaded programs that deal with issues such as housing and community development, education, employment and job training, immigration, health and safety, and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to the Allstate Hispanic Marketing Team and the Advertising and Brand Developing Group. They have shown unwavering commitment to the community and deserve our recognition and praise. "Con Allstate . . . Usted Está En Buenas Manos."

THE DIGITAL DATA SERVICES ACT OF 1998

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to assure that a duly licensed low powered television station may utilize its authorized spectrum to offer to the public digital-based interactive broadcast services, and wireless Internet access, one or two way, portable or fixed, or connection to the Internet

via the Interactive Video and Data Service (IVDS).

The Federal Communications Commission demonstrated sound judgment in granting limited "experimental authority" to such stations to develop alternative approaches for offering to the general public digital data services, including wireless Internet access at reasonable prices, and I want to make their authority permanent.

In its short period of existence, the Internet has grown to become an important medium for the conduct of commerce, the education of our children, and the maintenance of the informed and enlightened electorate necessary to a free society. Given its status in the United States as a substantial educational, promotional, commercial and distribution channel, the Internet is one of the engines which is driving the United States economy to record levels of productivity and employment.

One of the shortcomings of the technology is that it is wire bound. Through the efforts of the Federal Communications Commission and private entrepreneurs, however, that shortcoming is being ameliorated. There are currently a number of low-power television stations in the United States which have obtained experimental authority to provide Internet service because this service is an innovative use of the spectrum which will benefit the public.

It is the policy of the United States, as evidenced by the provisions of Sections 7, 10, 11, and 273 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to remove barriers to entry and to foster innovation in the telecommunications marketplace. The legislation I am introducing today is designed to ensure that these low power stations offering Internet service may continue to provide the public with high speed wireless Internet access.

Recent history of telecommunications aptly illustrates the demand and utility of wireless access. Wireless telecommunications has been a substantial enhancement to the United States economy. Wireless Internet access promises even greater but similar economic benefits. Use of low-power television stations for wireless Internet access would facilitate the provision of the Internet to schools and public libraries without the necessity for expensive rewiring of those facilities. For these reasons, there is substantial public interest benefit in encouraging the provision of wireless Internet access.

I anticipate that the subcommittee on telecommunications will take this matter up early next year. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that yesterday the House passed S. 2432, the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. The bill, with its House amendments, will soon be brought before the Senate for its consideration and I look forward shortly to its